

symbols, which portrays an action that determines a bonus game outcome. The action portrayed is randomly selected from a plurality of possible actions. An award is made based on the game outcome.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 3, lines 27-28, amend the paragraph as follows.

FIGS. 4 through 11 [13] are display screen captures showing interplays between associated symbols.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 12, 39, 56, 58 and 61.

Please amend claims 1, 28, 55, 57, 59, 60, 64, 66 and 67 as follows.

1. (Amended) A slot machine comprising:
 - a basic game controlled by a processor in response to a wager amount, the basic game including a plurality of simulated reels on a visual display, the reels being rotated and stopped to arrange symbols on the reels in an array, the symbols on the reels including one or more special symbols; and
 - an interplay feature activated by the processor in response to at least one of the special symbols appearing in the array, the special symbol interacting graphically with one or more of the other symbols in the array to portray one of a plurality of randomly selectable [possible] actions therebetween that determines a game outcome, said interplay feature generating a payout based upon said game outcome.

28. (Amended) A method of operating a slot machine under control of a processor comprising:

- a) providing a basic game including a plurality of simulated reels on a visual display;
- b) in response to a wager amount, rotating and stopping the reels to arrange symbols on the reels in an array, the symbols on the reels including one or more special symbols; and
- c) providing an interplay feature in response to at least one of the special symbols appearing in the array, the special symbol interacting graphically with one or more of the other symbols in the array to portray one of a plurality of randomly selectable [possible] actions therebetween that determines a game outcome; and
- d) generating a payout based upon said game outcome.

55. (Amended) A slot machine comprising:

a basic game controlled by a processor in response to a wager amount, the basic game including a plurality of symbols randomly placed in a symbol array, the plurality of symbols including one or more special symbols; and
an interplay feature activated by the processor in response to at least one of the special symbols appearing in the array, the special symbol interacting graphically with one or more of the other symbols in the array to portray an action randomly selected from a plurality of selectable actions, the portrayed action determining a game outcome, said interplay feature generating a payout based upon said game outcome [therebetween, the action being randomly selected from a plurality of selectable actions].

57. (Amended) A slot machine comprising:

a basic game controlled by a processor in response to a wager amount, the basic game including a plurality of symbols randomly placed in a symbol array, the plurality of symbols including a plurality of special symbols; and an interplay feature activated by the processor in response to a pair of the special symbols appearing in the array, different pairs of the special symbols interacting graphically with each other to portray different actions that determine a game outcome, said actions being randomly selected from a plurality of selectable actions, said interplay feature generating a payout based upon said game outcome.

59. (Amended) A slot machine comprising:

a basic game controlled by a processor in response to a wager amount, the basic game including a plurality of symbols randomly placed in a symbol array, the plurality of symbols including one or more special symbols; and an interplay feature activated by the processor in response to at least one of the special symbols appearing in the array, the special symbol interacting graphically with one or more of the other symbols in the array to portray an action that determines a game outcome, the action being randomly selected from a plurality of selectable actions that require an input from a player, said interplay feature generating a payout based upon said game outcome [the interplay feature generating an outcome depending upon an input from a player].

60. (Amended) A slot machine comprising:

a basic game controlled by a processor in response to a wager amount, the basic game including a plurality of symbols randomly placed in a symbol array, the plurality of symbols including a plurality of special symbols; and an interplay feature activated by the processor in response to a pair of the special symbols appearing in the array, the pair of the special symbols interacting graphically with each other to portray an action that determines a game outcome determined at least in part by a proximity of the special symbols in the symbol array, the action being randomly selected from a plurality of selectable actions, said interplay feature generating a payout based upon said game outcome [the interplay feature generating an outcome determined at least in part by a proximity of the special symbols in the symbol array].

64. (Amended) A slot machine comprising:

a basic game controlled by a processor in response to a wager amount, the basic game including a plurality of symbols randomly placed in a symbol array, the plurality of symbols including one or more special symbols; and an interplay feature activated by the processor in response to at least one of the special symbols appearing in the array, the special symbol interacting graphically with one or more of the other symbols in the array to portray an action that determines a game outcome, said action randomly selected from a plurality of actions to simulate a sports event, said interplay feature generating a payout based upon said game outcome.

66. (Amended) A slot machine comprising:

a basic game controlled by a processor in response to a wager amount, the basic game including a plurality of simulated reels on a visual display, the reels being rotated and stopped to arrange symbols on the reels in an array, the symbols on the reels including one or more special symbols; and

an interplay feature activated by the processor in response to at least one of the special symbols appearing in the array, the special symbol interacting graphically with one or more of the other symbols in the array to portray one of a plurality of randomly selectable actions therebetween that determines a game outcome, wherein at least one of the reels stops rotating after the processor initiates the interplay feature to determine the game outcome, said interplay feature generating a payout based on said game outcome.

67. (Amended) A slot machine comprising:

a basic game controlled by a processor in response to a wager amount, the basic game including a plurality of simulated reels on a visual display, the reels being rotated and stopped to arrange symbols on the reels in an array, the symbols on the reels including at least a pair of special symbols with a predefined relationship; and

an interplay feature activated by the processor in response to the pair of special symbols appearing in the array, the special symbols interacting graphically with each other in an animated event to portray one of a plurality of randomly selectable actions therebetween that determines a game